

From: Joan Schafer/R3/USEPA/US
Sent: 1/6/2012 7:58:26 AM

To: "Kathy Hodgkiss" <Hodgkiss.Kathy@epamail.epa.gov>
CC: "Ron Borsellino" <Borsellino.Ron@epamail.epa.gov>; "Dennis Carney" <carney.dennis@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: FYI!

Ex. 5 - Deliberative

EPA to Test Well-Water Near PA Fracking Sites
By Mark Drajem - Jan 5, 2012

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will collect samples of well water near Dimock, Pennsylvania, site of hydraulic fracturing for natural gas, after getting complaints from residents, an official said.

Cabot Oil & Gas Co. (COG), which in April 2010 said it settled with state regulators over methane contamination in 14 water wells, has agreed to postpone its drilling near Dimock.

"We will evaluate the sampling results and share them with the residents," Betsaida Alcantara, an EPA spokeswoman, said today in an e-mail. Residents gave the EPA information about the water, although "there are gaps" in the data, she said.

From: Kathy Hodgkiss/R3/USEPA/US
To: Joan Schafer/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, "Ron Borsellino" <Borsellino.Ron@epamail.epa.gov>, "Dennis Carney" <carney.dennis@epa.gov>
Date: 01/06/2012 07:54 AM
Subject: Re: FYI!

Ex. 5 - Deliberative

----- Original Message -----

From: Joan Schafer
Sent: 01/06/2012 07:32 AM EST
To: Ron Borsellino; Kathy Hodgkiss; Dennis Carney
Subject: FYI!

Just so you know...Betsaida is quoted in papers saying the following...

"We will evaluate the sampling results and share them with the residents," Betsaida Alcantara, an EPA spokeswoman,

Fracking Site Gets U.S. Scrutiny After Complaints

Daniel Acker/Bloomberg

Pioneer Drilling Co. floorhand Joey Sullivan looks up as section of drill pipe is moved on the drilling floor of an Alta Resources LLC natural gas drilling rig near Montrose, Pennsylvania.

Pioneer Drilling Co. floorhand Joey Sullivan looks up as section of drill pipe is moved on the drilling floor of an Alta Resources LLC natural gas drilling rig near Montrose, Pennsylvania. Photographer: Daniel Acker/Bloomberg

Water from wells in a Pennsylvania town near a gas-drilling site that used hydraulic fracturing will be collected and sampled by U.S. regulators after residents complained, the Environmental Protection Agency said.

Cabot Oil & Gas Co. (COG), which in April 2010 said it settled with state regulators over methane contamination in 14 water wells in Dimock, Pennsylvania, has agreed to postpone its drilling there.

"We will evaluate the sampling results and share them with the residents," Betsaida Alcantara, an EPA spokeswoman, said yesterday in an e-mail. Residents gave the EPA information about the water, although "there are gaps" in the data, she said.

A boom in gas production using hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, helped increase supplies, cutting prices 32 percent last year, while raising environmental concerns about tainted drinking water supplies. The EPA is studying the effects of fracking on water and weighing nationwide regulations.

President Barack Obama has said increased drilling for natural gas is a way to reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil and coal, which is more damaging to the environment when burned. Officials in his administration have been cautious when discussing possible health effects of fracking. "Natural gas plays a key role in our nation's clean-energy future and the Obama administration is committed to ensuring that the development of this vital resource occurs safely and responsibly," Alcantara said.

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